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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

E.O. 12065: XDS-1 7/23/10 (WATSON, A.W.) OR-M

TAGS: PEPR PINS PINT BL AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE INVOLVEMENT IN BOLIVIAN COUP

REF: DAO IR 6 808 0067 80 DTG 221615Z JULY 80; BUENOS AIRES 5903

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT:)

2. ~~IF THERE IS ANY TRUTH TO THE REPORTS WE HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM BOLIVIAN MILITARY POLICE AND OTHER SOURCES OVER RECENT MONTHS, THE ARGENTINES ARE UP TO THEIR NECKS IN THIS COUP. PERHAPS NOT THE GOVERNMENT PER SE, BUT CERTAINLY THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND ITS INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS, AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE ARGENTINES SEEM CLEARLY TO HAVE HAD A DIRECT HAND IN PLANS FOR THIS COUP. THEIR MILITARY ADVISERS PARTICIPATED IN ITS PREPARATION AND THEY ARE KNOWN TO HAVE CONTINUOUSLY TAKED UP A MILITARY TAKEOVER TO THEIR BOLIVIAN COUNTERPARTS. PLANS CALLED FOR MILITARY CARGO FLIGHTS TO ARGENTINA FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPLIES, I.E., DRY RATIONS, WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FOR THE WEAPONS THEY HAVE HERE. WE ARE INFORMED AND HAVE REPORTED THAT SUCH FLIGHTS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.~~

3. NOW WE ARE GETTING REPORTS FROM MANY SOURCES THAT PERSONS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE DETENTION AND INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS ARE SEPAKING WITH OBVIOUS ARGENTINE ACCENTS. MOREOVER, ARMA RAN INTO THE NOTORIOUS ARGENTINE LT COLONEL JULIO CESAR DURAN SHORTLY AFTER THE COUP TOOK PLACE LAST THURSDAY INSIDE THE MIRAFLORES BARRACKS WHERE POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE ALREADY BEING BROUGHT IN. DURAN IS GENERALLY KNOWN AS THE ADVISER TO THE BOLIVIAN ARMY G-2, ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY HE MAY BE ASSIGNED TO THE

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL HERE. FINALLY, WE REFER TO USDAO IR SENT YESTERDAY, JULY 22 WHICH RELATES SOME OF DURAN'S CURRENT PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENTS HERE.

4. ~~IN SUM, WE ARE CONVINCED OF THE ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH THE ARGENTINES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PRIVY TO OR HAD INPUT INTO THE ACTUAL TIMING OF THE COUP. THE ARGENTINE HAND MAY BE MORE CLEARLY REVEALED. IF THE GOA FINDS IT MUST PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE GARCIA MEZA REGIME.~~

WATSON

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